

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7498

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 11321

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD IN

SUBJECT: USIS CALCUTTA BUILDING PROJECT

1. AFTER THOROUGHLY REVIEWING USIS CALCUTTA BUILDING PROJECT WITH USIS AND FBO OFFICE HERE AS WELL AS VISITING FBO ARCHITECT MORI, EMBASSY IS PERSUADED THAT THE BUILDING AS NOW PLANNED DOES NOT SERVE BEST INTERESTS OF USG. ACCORDINGLY, THE AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS THAT FURTHER WORK ON THE PROJECT, AS PRESENTLY PLANNED, BE SUSPENDED AND THE BUILDING BE REDESIGNED.

2. USIS MAKES STRONG CASE, SUPPORTED BY FBO ARCHITECT, THAT PRESENT DESIGN OFFERS SPACE ILL-SUITED TO CURRENT OR FUTURE USIS PROGRAM NEEDS AT MORE COST THAN WOULD A DIFFERENT DESIGN THAT MATCHES FORM TO FUNCTION AND PROVIDES FOR A MORE EFFICIENT OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE ON THE SAME SITE. NEWLY DESIGNED BUILDING WOULD THUS REPRESENT BETTER INVESTMENT FOR USG WHILE AT SAME TIME MORE EFFECTIVELY SERVE USIS NEEDS.

3. BASIC PROBLEM WITH PRESENT DESIGN STEMS FROM ITS FUNDAMENTAL PLAN WHICH PROVIDES NO FLEXIBILITY IN PROGRAMMING SPACE AND LITTLE EFFICIENCY IN OFFICE SPACE. PROGRAM SPACE IS LIMITED TO ONE SMALL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM AND A NARROW, FIXED-SEATING AUDITORIUM. OFFICES ARE UNFUNCTIONALLY ARRANGED AROUND THREE-STOREY TOWER DESIGNED AS A SERVICE AREA FOR STAIRWAYS, ELEVATORS, AIR CONDITIONING ETC., AN ARRANGEMENT THAT SEVERELY COMPROMISES EFFICIENCY

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OF BOTH OFFICE AND LIBRARY SPACE. DURING THIS LATEST REVIEW AS

IN PAST, USIS EXPLORED FEASIBILITY OF SHIFTING
SPACE WITHIN PRESENT BASIC DESIGN BUT SUCH SHIFTING DOES

NOT ADDRESS OVERRIDING PROBLEM STEMMING FROM FAILINGS
IN BUILDING'S BASIC DESIGN.

4. PRESENT LEASE HAS RECENTLY BEEN RENEWED AND WITH MINIMUM
RENOVATION TO THOSE FACILITIES, THEY CAN CONTINUE TO BE
UTILIZED, UNTIL A BUILDING DESIGN CAN BE
DEVELOPED THAT MORE CLOSELY MEETS CALCUTTA PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS. IN USIS VIEW THIS INTERIM MEASURE WILL
MORE EFFECTIVELY MEET ITS OVERALL NEED THAN WILL A
BUILDING BEING CONSTRUCTED USING THE CURRENT PLANS
BEING DEVELOPED BY CHATTERJEE AND POLK.SAXBE

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